

## ABSTRACT

The invention provides a method for increasing the hybridization rate of nucleic acids in a nucleic acid assay by labeling nucleic acid molecules with paramagnetic labels and activating a magnetic field inducing rapid migration of the labeled molecules to a solid support, where the labeled molecule hybridizes with its complementary pair. The paramagnetic label may be present on the target nucleic acid or the probe nucleic acid, depending upon whether the target or probe are the immobile phase.

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